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INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

GEITHNER OK'D



Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner, pauses on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009, before answering questions during his nomination hearing before the Senate Finance Committee.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

AUSSIE OPEN



Britain's Andy Murray reacts after losing a point as he plays Spain's Fernando Verdasco during their Men's singles match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 26, 2009.

See Sports Today

First Salsa Boot camp ever on Aruba

Edie, the original Salsa Freak, visits Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Recently at Pachanga Salsa School a select group of students, all of them teachers and/or gifted dancers themselves, attended a so-called Salsa Boot Camp. 24 hours of training on style, business and marketing, the history, musicology, with countless other topics are crammed into a 2-day marathon designed specifically as a Master Class for the Salsa Stars of Today. The 2-day Marathon was concluded with a grand dinner at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant, where the coveted diplomas were awarded by Edie herself.

Edie, The Salsa Freak is one of the most sought after instructor / performers in the world. She has traveled to over 60 countries teaching the world to dance, and has been the first American to teach in 20 of those countries. She is currently on world tour, taking the world by storm with her powerful dance style, precision, and amazing speed.

Continued on Page 7



General Manager Stellaris Casino Peter Keijzer.

Peter Keijzer New Member Of Education Advisory Board Nevada

PALM BEACH – Stellaris Casino's General Manager Peter Keijzer has gladly accepted the invitation to serve on the Education Advisory Board for the Gaming Management Program offered through the University of Nevada, Reno's Extended Studies.

Continued on Next Page

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Peter Keijzer New Member Of Education Advisory Board Nevada

Continued from Front Page
 Reno's Gaming Management Program is designed specifically for the Nevada gaming market with the help of an advisory board. The program offers courses for mid-level managers and supervisors up to senior level directors and owners for gaming operations and

suppliers worldwide. In the past 19 years, over 400 students have earned a Certificate in Gaming Management through the program. In his duty as a member of the Education Advisory Board, Peter will be responsible for identifying emerging trends in the gaming industry worldwide, determining

training needs for casino personnel, identifying course content and instructors and assistance with the marketing of this important program. Designated among the "World's Best Places to Stay" by Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Gold List, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most



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spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc. (NYSE:MAR) is a leading lodging company with about 3,000 lodging properties in

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De Palm Tours Transient Sales department announces Star Award winner



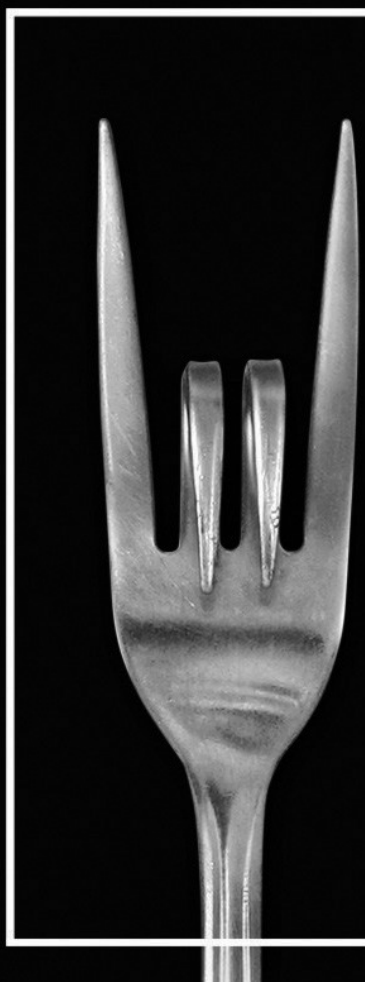
PALM BEACH - De Palm Tours department of Transient Sales recently announced the final results of the 2008 Star program and handed prizes to the winning agents. Chairman of the Board Mr. Harold Malmberg and Mr. Ricardo Malmberg Director of De Palm Tours, congratulated all for their hard work during 2008 and for making it a successful year and at the same time gave encouraging words for it to be a successful 2009.

The winners for the Star Award 2008 were chosen based on the following categories: the overall sales and product sales budget, attendance record, cooperation and team spirit.

The absolute winner of the 2008 Star Award went to Marina Peters, who won a 7-day Cruise for two through the Caribbean. Second winner was Kristen Gumbs who won a Computer and in third place was Iris Veen, she received a 32-inch flat screen TV. In 4th place Edselyn Figaroa, who received a weekend stay at Paradise Beach Villas, dinner at Aqua Grill and a Spa treatment. In 5th place Rosanna Chayadi, received a weekend stay at Occidental Hotel. Vivian Heiliger 6th place, Christopher Koolman 7th place, Pauline Naddall 8th place, Carine Maduro 9th place and Millicent Smith 10th place. They all received fabulous prizes such as; dinners at the Occidental, Holiday Inn and Tamarijn. The

teams from the Reservations Pool and De Palm Island Pool where recognized and also received great prizes which included; spa massages from Indulgente, Sunrise Spa, dinner certificates for Gambero Rosso and Paparazzi at Tamarijn. Presenting the prizes to the Star Winners where; Barbara Bregita Manager Transient Sales and Lisette Mohamed

HR Manager, Peggy Gomez and Barbara Mitchell Sales Operation Supervisors. Sabine Scheepers and Carla Martinus Sales Coordinators. Congratulations to the entire team of Transients Sales and especially to the winners of the Star Award program 2008 and wishing all agents lots of success for the 2009 Star Award. □



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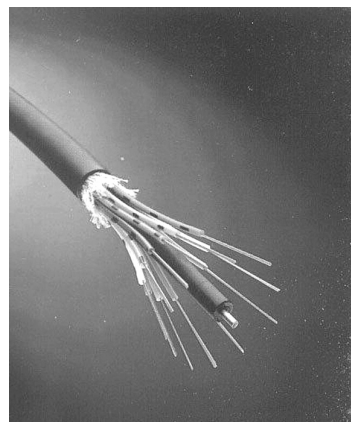
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Fiber optics bring new light and internet speeds to Aruba



Ottawa, Ontario - Enablence Technologies Inc. ("Enablence"), a global leader in optical communications which provides systems, subsystems and components for Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH), metro and long haul markets, announced recently that Setar N.V. Aruba ("Setar"), Aruba's national telecommunications services provider, selected Enablence's

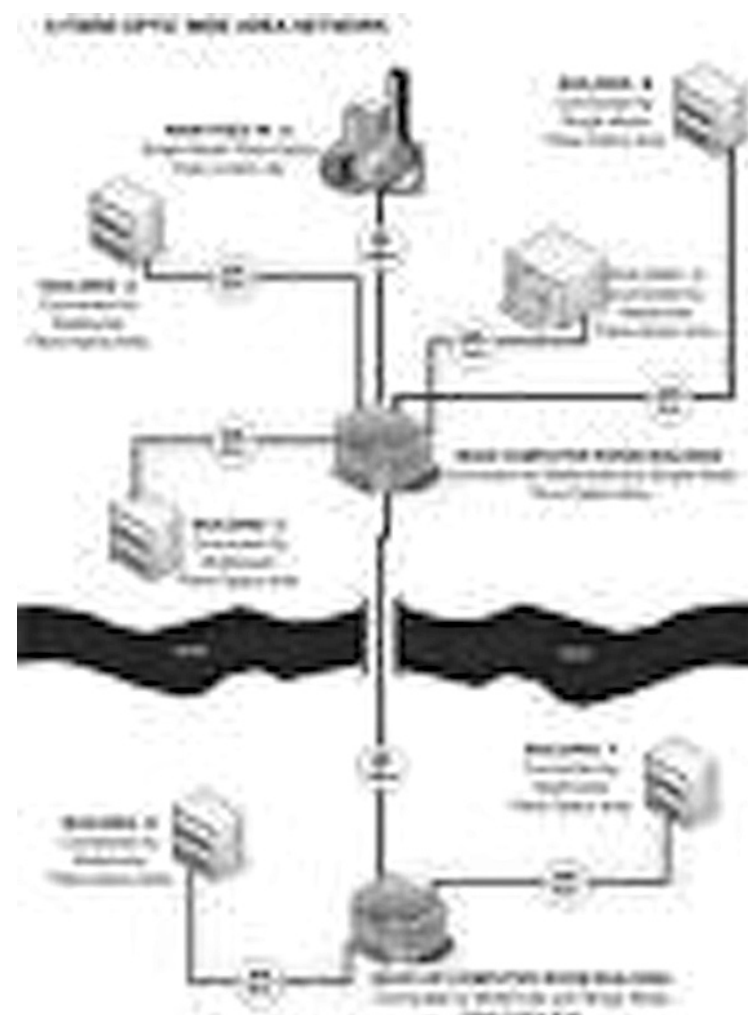
TRIDENT7 Universal Access Platform for Aruba's first FTTH project.

The Phase 1 of the deployment will connect residential subscribers in the Gold Coast real estate development. Gold Coast residents will receive complete triple-play voice, data, and RF video services, including advanced video services such as Video-on-Demand supported by Enablence's patented single fiber RF return solution. "This is another great and strategic win for Enablence as we expand our business internationally" stated Arvind Chhatbar, Enablence's CEO. "The fact that Setar chose the Enablence TRIDENT7 Universal Access Platform to break ground on FTTH in Aruba is a real plus for us,

and we are very pleased to see our GPON solution gaining global momentum including in North America." continued Mr. Chhatbar.

After successful deployment to the Gold Coast real estate development, Setar plans to continue rolling out the Enablence TRIDENT7 FTTH solution in new real estate projects across Aruba. "Because this is the first ever FTTH deployment in Aruba, this is a very exciting time for Setar's customers," stated Raul Ponson, Sector Manager of Technical Affairs for Setar. "This is simply a huge leap forward, in terms of the breadth and depth of services we can immediately provide our customers, and the GPON standard leaves us plenty of room to continue raising the bar for subscribers throughout Aruba going forward."

"The flexibility of the TRIDENT7 platform was a key factor in our decision," continued Ponson. "The fact that we can maintain all of our existing operational systems and enable seamless service provisioning allows us to migrate to PON with ease."



The Enablence TRIDENT7 Element Management Suite (T7 EMS) includes an open northbound interface that enables integration of third party operational and billing (OSS/BSS) systems.

The Enablence TRIDENT7 Universal Access Platform is the only FTTH platform on the market capable of supporting all three key optical access standards from a common OLT platform.

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Caribbean's Cartagena draws Colombians and Europeans

BY ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
 CARTAGENA, Colombia -- If it isn't the bright bougainvillea tumbling from the colonial balconies or the quiet shimmer of the Caribbean Sea, then maybe it's the impromptu dance parties in the town plazas, or the joyful din of guitars, bongos and maracas that drifts through the city with the evening breeze. Just what it is that hooks you, no one knows for sure. But soon enough, you begin to understand what the locals keep saying.

Cartagena is magic.
 "There's something mystical in the air," says Valentino Cortazar, a painter who lives within the old walled portion of the city in a one-bedroom, two-hammock apartment. Cortazar, originally from Bogota, said he was splitting time between Miami and New York when he visited Cartagena eight years ago for an art exhibition -- and never left. That happens from time to time; people get sucked in. Musicians Davis Pineda and Elizabeth Salazar, who roam the streets with a guitar and bongo drums singing ballads, said they visited Cartagena from nearby Barranquilla five years ago and found a "strange energy" they couldn't resist. The people were warmer, happier, different from the rest of Colombia. They live here now, struggling to make ends meet, staying for the music, for the beaches, for reasons they can't explain. No wonder Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Colombia's king of magical realism, set several of his novels in Cartagena. "Beautiful landscape, beautiful people, beautiful colors," Cortazar muses one night over wine and fish, which you'll get

your fill of in Cartagena. "For an artist, it's perfect." It's perfect for a tourist, too. Safe and slow

The fifth-largest city in Colombia, Cartagena (pronounced car-ta-HAY-na) has long been a choice vacation spot and convention hub for Colombians because of its beauty and reputation for safety in a land that's notorious for drug-trafficking and kidnappings. Some European tourists have discovered it, but you don't find many Americans unless they're coming off cruise ships.

Security throughout the country has improved under the tough policies of President Alvaro Uribe. The high-profile rescue of former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt from FARC guerrillas in July was a dramatic example of the weakened state of narco-terrorist groups. Seeing renewed potential as a tourist destination, the Colombian government launched a campaign to shed its violent image and try to attract more foreign visitors. The slogan: "Colombia, The only risk is wanting to stay." For Cartagena, at least, that rings very true.

Its history is rich, troubling and romantic, and some say the ghosts of the past give the city its mystique. Once the largest slave port in the New World, Cartagena fended off pirate attacks, went on witch hunts and sentenced hundreds to die in the name of the Inquisition. And then there's the cheap massages.

There's nothing like lying on the beach with a wandering Spanish-Afro cumbia band playing nearby, while a woman with a bottle of green gunk and a beach pail full of sea water kneads the knots out of your

body. We're talking a full-body massage, lasting anywhere from half an hour to an hour and costing you only 10,000 to 30,000 pesos (\$4 to \$13 at current exchange rates), depending on how busy the masseuse has been that day and how good you are at haggling. This is no formal service; the roving masseuses are locals trying to make a living with their green aloe-and-algae concoction. But my masseuse Kari tells me they've gone through training, and as she diligently works out the kinks in my back, I believe her (and love her).

A stroll through the old
 The heart of Cartagena is the old walled city, known as "el Centro," where colorful colonial houses sit along a



maze of narrow streets that change names at every block. The best way to see it is to walk, though for about \$14 you can have an informal guided tour in a horse-drawn carriage. Pass through the Plaza de Aduanas and Plaza de Los Coches, former slave markets, and see the Puerta del Reloj, a big clock tower that once was the only way into the walled city. Outside the walls is the rest of the city -- some of it colonial, much of it a modern commercial district, most of it very poor -- with some important historical sites and all the beaches. □



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Pepia Est Gives Wine Training at Café the Plaza



ORANJESTAD – Under the Motto “ you can’t make an omelet without breaking an egg”, and of course to learn

and improve, a host of bottles where opened in Café The Plaza by Michael van den Berg from Wine importers Pepia Est

for various staff members to taste and evaluate. The reason for these ongoing trainings is to take the level of wine

knowledge from the already very apt staff at Café the Plaza to the next level. While doing tasting and discovering flavors, bouquet, colors and terroir in the various wine on offer, host Michael explained the history and characteristics of every varietals, and of the

specific wines. Needless to say the staff from Café the Plaza gave Michael and their glasses their undivided attention. The very next afternoon all of them were ready and waiting for guests to challenge in their newly acquired knowledge. Chin Chin! □

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First Salsa Boot camp ever on Aruba



Continued from Front Page
Aruba is country number 63 on the list. Edie was recently awarded the International Lifetime Achievement Award at the International UK Salsa Congress in England and voted by her peers and students, Best International Instructor at the Los Angeles Congress, British International Salsa Festival (two years running), and Switzerland Congress in Zurich. She was the

Guest of Honor at the Curacao Salsa Festival and the First Annual Swiss Congress. She has taken first place in numerous dance competitions, notably the famous Mayan competition out of Los Angeles, California, and the International Salsa and Hustle Pro Salsa Championships in Miami, Florida. Edie's passion is to share her talents with both students and audiences throughout the world

with her teaching talents, stunning performances, instructional DVDs, and down-to-earth Internet advice columns and stories. Her World Famous Salsa Bootcamps are held on weekends all over the world for those who want to learn and Stylize their Salsa in just one day. Twice a year, Edie hosts a four-day dance camp called the Salsa Mambo Festival with Dance Sport California in Palm

Springs, California. It is held every New Years Eve and last weekend in July. It is aimed primarily at teaching people how to dance Salsa at any age level. Her entire instructional DVD series is a documented catalog of her progression as a professional dancer with a list of stylized moves, combinations, and turn patterns that will keep students challenged and entertained for years to come. □



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ternoon reading the paper, while at the same go there for a big night out. Three days a week there is live music, always at the right pace but never too loud. Café Rembrandt is open for lunch, boasting various Dutch delights, ranging from sandwiches to “bitterballen” (the original Dutch snack) to salads and warm dishes. At night you can sit down

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Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Neatly tucked away on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all “Casa Tua” meaning “Your Home” in Italian. The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories. Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are

seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven. The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers in-



cluding shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at

this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term “great service” not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as ‘the’ professionals in assisting guests with

always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more... the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataraf and his son Gregory are



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PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. The chefs specialize in Aruba Exotic Sushi and Asian Cuisine with unique flavors second to none. The ever so friendly staff will gladly explain the different dishes and specials to you, and help you with unique food & wine pairings. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety sashimi, sushi rolls,

chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses. Nobushi is located in the Paseo Herencia Mall across the Holiday Inn Resort.

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EAGLE BEACH - Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing: you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spare-ribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



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Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine." Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred," the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □

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"Fun Island Living". Owned by Irwin Hagedoorn & Jodi Tobman, who have several other boutiques on the island, the couple had a lot of fun creating this magnificent jewel of a store which opened its doors in June of 2004. A wide variety of distinctive items from luscious silk tropical shirts for men, stylish resort wear for women and exclusive artisan jewelry are all elegantly displayed making use of many antique pieces. The theme of "Fun Island Living" is apparent in the wide selection of accessories for the home including tropical



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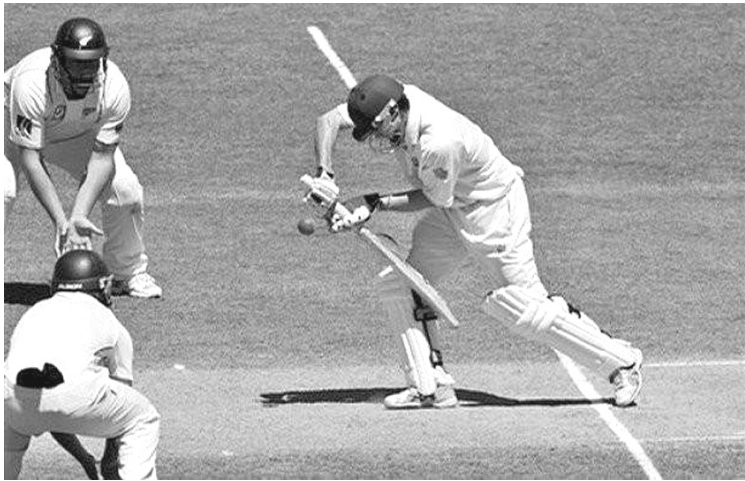


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Brendan Nash cracks Caribbean barrier

West Indies' first white player since 1973 is in good form as he prepares to face England



Simon Wilde

JAMAICA - England will find an unusual face awaiting them in the first Test in Jamaica next week. Brendan Nash, who made his debut in New Zealand last month, is the first white man to have played Test cricket for West Indies since 1973 and will be the first to take on England in 40 years. Nash's achievement should not be underestimated. Cricket used to be the preserve of the white classes in the Caribbean; until Frank Worrell in the 1960s, the Test captaincy was their monopoly. But soon enough the marginalisation of the game's white community was all but complete.

It did not help that the involvement of the last white man before Nash triggered a racial controversy. Geoffrey Greenidge had appeared in five Tests when he joined an invitation XI on a tour of Rhodesia. The decision incensed the Guyanese government, which refused him entry to play domestic cricket. Greenidge's career was over at 28.

Not every sport in the Caribbean was as politicised as cricket. Whites turned their attention to less contentious activities such as golf, tennis,

racing and watersports. Among those who did so was Nash's father, Paul. Nash Sr had played cricket as a youngster but excelled at swimming. He represented Jamaica at the 1968 Olympics.

Paul Nash later settled in Australia with his wife, Andrea, who was a lawyer. Their first home was Perth - where Brendan was born - but they later crossed to Brisbane, where their son's cricket flourished. By the time he turned 19 he had played for Queensland Colts.

His progress with Queensland was slow. Geraint Jones, who came through the same youth system before relocating to England, remembers him as a softly spoken, unobtrusive sort who had to work hard for his runs. But by 2001 Nash had broken into the state side and in his sixth match scored 157 against South Australia.

There were to be other centuries - and an embarrassing stint as Australia's 12th man at the Gabba, where he dropped a catch against West Indies, of all people - but he never quite established himself and was released in 2006 after two noughts against New South Wales.

That might have been that,

but luck smiled on him. His Jamaican parentage opened the door to Caribbean cricket. He needed somebody to usher him through.

That man was Jeffrey Dujon, the former West Indies wicketkeeper who happened to be a family friend. Dujon gained Nash an introduction to the Kingston club, which in generations past had been a bastion of white cricket.

Nash did enough to earn a trial for Jamaica. His breakthrough came last April in the Carib Beer Cup final, the domestic first-class championship: he scored 117 in a game in which nobody else passed 60.

Nash's candidature for the West Indies team caused lively debate among the selectors and around the Caribbean. For racial reasons, some sceptics were not keen for him to be chosen. Others pointed - legitimately enough - to a first-class batting average of 27.8 for Queensland and the fact that he was 30 years of age. Dujon conceded it was a delicate issue. "There were opposing schools of thought about Brendan," he recalled, "but he was a level-headed guy and didn't rub up anyone the wrong way. There was a bit of a stumble, as the West Indies selectors were not keen to pick him at the start, but once they got past that he got his chance and made the most of his opportunity. He has set a great example with his fielding and professionalism and he has been appreciated for that."

Dujon admitted that he could not think of any whites who were playing club cricket in Jamaica, although he understood there were a few



in Barbados. Some Jamaican expatriates have pursued the game in foreign lands. Shawn Gillies was born on the island but developed a career as a fast bowler in Western Australia and has represented Australia in the Hong Kong Sixes.

Nash provided much-needed solidity to West Indies' batting in New Zealand. In the second Test in Napier, he scored two fifties, sharing fifth-wicket stands of 163 with Shivnarine Chanderpaul in one innings and 124 with Chris Gayle in the other. "He is better suited to the longer form of the

game," Dujon added. "He bats a long time and could be very valuable in the middle order."

RACIAL LANDMARKS IN CARIBBEAN CRICKET

1948 George Headley is the first black captain of a West Indies side, against England, although he fills in for only one Test

1960 Frank Worrell is appointed the first black captain for a Test series

2008 Brendan Nash makes Test debut, the first white player to appear in the five-day game for the West Indies since Geoff Greenidge in 1973

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Bahamas medic charged in Travolta extortion plot



By John Marquis
NASSAU (Reuters) — A

Undated picture released by the Travolta family shows actor John Travolta (R) with his son Jett. Officials in the Bahamas on Monday conducted an autopsy on Jett Travolta, the teenage son of actor John Travolta and his wife Kelly Preston, who died here last week during a family holiday, police said.

(AFP/HO)

Bahamian paramedic pleaded not guilty and was held without bail on Monday on charges he conspired to extort \$25 million from John Travolta after the actor's son died in the Bahamas this month. Bahamian police said last week they were investigating a complaint by Travolta of an extortion plot against him. Neither police nor prosecutors have elaborated on the nature of the scheme.

Prosecutors allege the paramedic, Tarino Lightbourne, 47, tried to extort Travolta by means of threats. They also charged him with forgery.

Magistrate Carolita Bethel adjourned his hearing until Wednesday, when a former senator, Pleasant Bridgewater, is due in court to face charges of conspiracy to extort and abetment in connection with the case.

Bridgewater was granted bail of \$40,000 during the weekend and vowed to fight what she called "untrue and unfair" charges.

"How these innocent actions can be so misconstrued, so perversely twisted to mean something other than it was, is a mystery," she said in a statement over the weekend.

Bridgewater resigned her Senate seat, saying she did not want to bring undue pressure on her party, the opposition Progressive Liberal Party.

Jett Travolta, 16, was found unconscious on January 2 at his family's home in the Old Bahama Bay resort on Grand Bahama Island, where John Travolta's family and friends had gathered for the New Year holiday.

His father and paramedics tried to revive him. He was rushed to hospital in an ambulance and later pronounced dead.

On the death certificate, Bahamian authorities listed "seizure disorder" as the cause of death.

The boy's body was cremated in the Bahamas and his ashes were returned to Florida, where Travolta and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, held a memorial service at their home near Ocala. □

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Stocks fluctuate on anxiety over earnings reports

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Wall Street has managed an advance the hard way — zigzagging on a mix of earnings and economic news before closing moderately higher.

The major indexes changed course several times during Monday's session, rising in response to Pfizer Inc.'s \$68 billion planned acquisition of Wyeth, a deal that reassured investors that mergers could still take place in a recession. And the National Association of Realtors said existing homes rose rather than fell in December, stirring hopes that lower prices and falling interest rates are starting to erase at a glut of homes with "for sale" signs.

But news from big companies weighed on the market. Downbeat comments from Caterpillar Inc. about the health of its business curbed the advance in the Dow industrials. Caterpillar shares dropped more than 8 percent after the maker of heavy equipment said plunging commodity prices left the company "whipsawed" in the fourth quarter. Caterpillar said it would offer buyouts to 25,000 employees in the U.S. and cut executive pay. Home Depot Inc. also announced big job cuts. The company said it would slash 7,000 jobs and close its smaller Expo chain as it struggles with the weak housing market. "There's a lot of things for investors to digest in what

is a very uncertain market environment, and I think that is why you see some hesitation," said Todd Salamone, senior vice president of research, Schaeffer's Investment Research.

After the close of trading, chip maker Texas Instruments Inc. also announced job cuts — a total of 3,400, with 1,800 coming from layoffs. The company also said its fourth-quarter earnings fell sharply. Concerns about the banking industry added to the market's uncertainty, and most financial stocks fell. After the closing bell, American Express Co. announced fourth-quarter earnings that missed analysts' estimates by a penny. The company, as expected, reported that its cardholders cut back

their spending during the October-December period. According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrials rose 38.47, or 0.48 percent, to 8,116.03, after briefly moving into negative territory.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 4.62, or 0.56 percent, to 836.57, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 12.17, or 0.82 percent, to 1,489.46.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 5.70, or 1.28 percent, to 450.06.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.27 billion shares.

Another unnerving unknown for the market is the exact form that President Barack Obama's proposed stimulus package will take after it has worked its way through Congress.

Senate committees are scheduled to take up the massive plan Tuesday and the full House is expected to vote on its version of the \$825 billion package Wednesday. The plan could include big tax cuts and a massive public works program.

"Right now (the market) is in a holding pattern," said Doug Roberts, chief investment strategist at Channel Capital Research. "They know things aren't going to get any better soon, but want to see what



A specialist works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Jan. 26, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

this package is going to look like."

Stocks are coming off a wild week of big ups and downs as companies' financial results weighed on the market. All the major indexes finished last week with losses of more than 2 percent.

Analysts expect volatility in the market to persist through the remainder of earnings season.

"It's almost like a teeter-totter right now," said Alan Lancz, money manager at Alan B. Lancz & Associates. "Earnings season is always treacherous in this kind of global economic environment with all the uncertainty."

Of the companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index that have reported results in recent weeks, more than half have fallen short of analysts' already reduced estimates. The poor showing has left investors nervous that the economy is in worse shape than feared. □

Job-killing recession racks up more layoff victims



Monty McCleskes fills out an application form at a job fair organized by The News-Press newspaper in Estero, Florida January 14, 2009. The US unemployment rate surged to the highest in nearly 16 years last month as a deepening year-long recession forced companies to axe more than half a million jobs, government data showed last Friday. The US economy lost an astonishing 1.9 million jobs in the past four months alone, an acceleration in layoffs toward the end of a year that brought the biggest drop in employment in more than a half century.

REUTERS/Carlos Barria (UNITED STATES)

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The recession is killing jobs at an alarming pace, with tens of thousands of new layoffs announced Monday by some of the biggest names in American business — Pfizer, Caterpillar and Home Depot. More pink slips, pay freezes and other hits are expected to slam workers in the months ahead as companies desperately look for ways to survive.

"We're just seeing the tip of the iceberg — the big firms," said Rebecca Braeu, economist at John Hancock Financial Services. "There's certainly

other firms beneath them that will lay off workers as quickly or even quicker." Looking ahead, economists predicted a net loss of at least 2 million jobs — possibly more — this year even if President Barack Obama's \$825 billion package of increased government spending and tax cuts is enacted. Last year, the economy lost a net 2.6 million jobs, the most since 1945, though the labor force has grown significantly since then.

The unemployment rate, now at a 16-year high of 7.2 percent, could hit 10 percent or higher later this year or early next year, under some

analysts' projections.

Obama called on Congress Monday to speedily enact his recovery plan, warning that the nation can't afford "distractions" or "delays."

With the recession expected to drag on through much of this year, more damage will be inflicted on both companies and workers.

The mounting toll was visible Monday as roughly 40,000 more U.S. workers got the grim news.

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc., which is buying rival drugmaker Wyeth in a \$68 billion deal, and Sprint Nextel Corp., the country's third-largest wireless provider, said they each will slash 8,000 jobs. □



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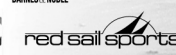



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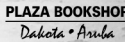
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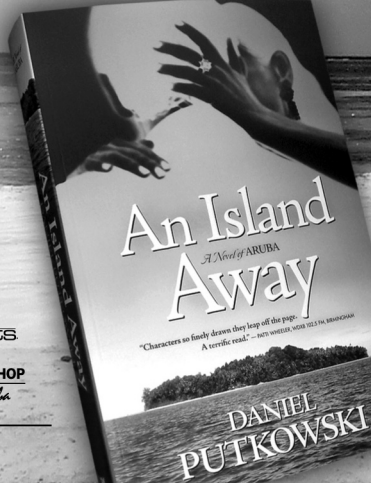


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Senator Oprah? Governor Over-the-Top

The Nation -- In case anyone doubted that Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich was a little out there, his admission that he considered appointing talk-show host Oprah Winfrey to the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Barack Obama should close the case.

To be sure, Winfrey is a remarkable woman. And she has been an enthusiastic backer of President Obama, having provided an early and meaningful endorsement during the former Illinois senator's race for the Democratic presidential nod. But Winfrey, who it might reasonably be suggested is otherwise engaged, has never indicated a desire to be a senator.

That didn't stop Blagojevich--who on the eve of his Illinois impeachment trial on charges related to alleged scheming to barter off Obama's seat to the highest bidder was busy comparing his circumstance with that of Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr. -- from acknowledging that, yes, he had pondered proposing "Senator Oprah."

On ABC News' Good Morning America, where Blagojevich appeared as part of a last-minute PR push on news and talk shows such as NBC's Today show and CNN's Larry King Live, Diane Sawyer went fishing for names of people the governor might have been considering as replacements for Obama.

"I've heard Oprah," said Sawyer.

"That is true," said Blagojevich, who added that, "The idea came from a friend."

"(She) seemed to be someone who had helped Barack Obama in a significant way become president. She was obviously someone with a much broader bully pulpit than other senators," the embattled governor continued.

Sawyer let Blagojevich ramble. Smart move.

"She probably wouldn't take it," he admitted, before asking himself a telling question: "And then (the governor and his aides) talked about if you offered it to her, how would you do it in a way that it didn't look like it was some gimmick to try to embarrass her."

For her part, Winfrey said she was "pretty amused" at the whole notion. "If I had been watching from the treadmill, I probably would have fallen off the treadmill," she told Gayle King on King's satellite radio program.

Amusing indeed.

Until, of course, you remember that this is how governors go about choosing senators when vacancies occur. While Blagojevich may have been irresponsible, and perhaps even illegal, in his actions, the fact is that gubernatorial appointments are invariably subject to considerations that have more to do with political positioning and PR gambits than with the will or the people of able representation. □



Obama can instill civic responsibility – through a mandatory Youth Corps

By William A. Babcock

Long Beach, Calif. — Even though it's been less than a week since Barak Obama's inauguration speech, much has already been said, broadcast, and written about the new president's call for service and for his focus on "a new era of responsibility." With that in mind, perhaps there's a responsibility seed that could be sown in President Obama's 100-day honeymoon period.

Here's what such a seed might resemble: Every young American citizen, once he or she graduated from high school, would have the responsibility to complete two years of public service. National need would define the nature of such service, but at any given time the variety of jobs likely would be in education, infrastructure repair and maintenance, construction, healthcare, the military, and the arts, for example. Participants, most age 18 to 20, would be provided with room and board and given minimum wage during this two-year period.

In exchange, after a young person had completed this two-year commitment, the United States government would bear the responsibility for paying for that person's two-year junior college education or the first two years of his or her four-year college tuition.

Just as John F. Kennedy's

Peace Corps found inspiration in the ideas of Sen. Hubert Humphrey, Sen. Fritz Hollings, Congressman Henry Reuss, Sen. William Fullbright, and the Mormons, among others, this "youth corps" idea also borrows from the Peace Corps. Such a "youth corps" also plucks some of the best and brightest gems from Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civil Conservation Corps, America's military draft, and the GI bill. That's because the idea of service is not novel to the American experience. Rather, each new generation asks itself how its citizens might best serve their country. The times call for legitimate regeneration, not a feel-good tweak, and a piecemeal, voluntary approach simply would not promote the sort of permanent cultural change the financially strapped 21st century increasingly demands. Rather, a mandatory youth corps rich with a variety of service options would benefit every participant and citizen alike, while at the same time helping to instill a permanent "service mind-set" throughout the nation — a gift of shared responsibility, as it were.

Today, global unrest and economic hard times demand that we dust ourselves off and start working again, that we repair our broken transportation system, that

we train people to help in our hospitals, that we teach prospective teachers, that we better prepare and educate our students, that we ready our young people so that they might have every opportunity to mature with grace, dignity, and understanding.

Responsibility cuts both ways, and every generation of Americans shares the responsibility of providing its young people with the opportunity to be responsible. Such shared responsibility would help spawn a new breed of citizens who, when they came of legal age, would:

- Have increased real-world experience.
- Be more worldly wise.
- Have knowledge of a skill or trade.
- Better understand how various aspects of the nation work.
- Be more fiscally self-sufficient.
- Have the opportunity to pursue a free junior-college education.

Any such "youth corps" project involving all of America's high school graduates is by nature a mammoth undertaking. But then, so are trillion-dollar financial bailouts. More service-oriented citizens would push the country in a savvy, experienced, community oriented, mature, and responsible direction. □

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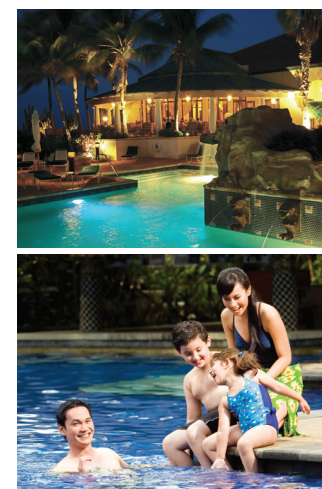
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their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

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Senate confirms Obama's troubled Treasury chief

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate confirmed New York Federal Reserve Bank chief Timothy Geithner on Monday as President Barack Obama's treasury secretary despite tax problems that might have sunk his nomination in less desperate times.

The 60-34 vote, in which handfuls of Republicans and Democrats voted against their party leaders, put Geithner at the helm of Obama's economic team as it races to halt the worst U.S. financial slide in generations.

In swift order reflecting the urgency, Obama was expected to attend Geithner's swearing in at the Treasury Department. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Geithner has made amends - he paid the owed taxes and penalties - and has the talent the United States needs to steer the way out of the crisis.

Geithner, 47, served as undersecretary of the treasury for international affairs during the Clinton administration. As president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, an arm of the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, he has been a crucial player in the government's response to collapsing financial institutions and the housing and credit markets since last summer.

Many Republicans were willing to overlook Geithner's failure to pay all his taxes on income received from the International Monetary Fund in 2001 and in three subsequent years.

For most senators, the real reason for Geithner's likely confirmation appears to be less a matter of bipartisan cooperation than political survival. Lawmakers of all stripes are eager to set the economy in the right direction long before voters judge their progress in the 2010 midterm



President Barack Obama, left, watches Vice President Joe Biden swear-in Timothy Geithner, right, as Treasury Secretary at the Treasury Department Monday, Jan. 26, 2009, in Washington. Geithner's wife Carole Geithner, holds the Bible.

Associated Press

elections.

"People make mistakes and commit oversights," said Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch. "Even the most intelligent and gifted - two adjectives that certainly apply to Mr. Geithner - make errors in their financial dealings."

Even so, not everyone was convinced that the need for a speedy confirmation should trump misgivings about the candidate. Sen. Susan Collins, another Republican, was not swayed by Geithner's contention that he skipped paying some taxes because he was confused by the complexities of the tax code.

"They were described by the nominee himself as 'careless mistakes,'" Collins said in prepared remarks.

Continued on Next Page

Iraqi prime minister expects faster U.S. pullout

By ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) - Iraq's prime minister said Monday he believes the U.S. will withdraw its troops quicker than the three-year timeline set down in a U.S.-Iraq security agreement. The U.S., meanwhile, suffered its biggest single loss of life in months when two helicopters crashed, killing four service members.

An agreement negotiated under former President George W. Bush's administration called for U.S. combat troops to withdraw from Baghdad and other cities by the end of June, with all American forces out of the country by the end of 2011.

President Barack Obama campaigned on a promise to remove all combat troops within 16 months and has asked the Pentagon to plan for "a responsible military drawdown from Iraq."

With planning under way, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki told a political rally south of Baghdad that he believes the end of the U.S. mission "will be brought forward" and Iraq must bolster its own forces to meet the challenge after the Americans leave. The Shiite-led government pushed for a faster U.S. pullout during last year's negotiations on the security agreement, overcoming longtime Bush administration opposition to a fixed withdrawal schedule.

Al-Maliki has been campaigning actively on behalf of his allies for next weekend's provincial elections, promoting his image as the leader who restored stability and ended what many Iraqis see as a U.S. military occupation.

At the same time, however, U.S. officials in Iraq have cautioned that a hasty departure of the 142,000 U.S. troops could reverse the decline in violence and undermine Iraq's efforts to establish a stable government.



"I think the spirit of compromise, of accommodation, of focus on institutional development - all of that would run the risk of getting set aside" with a hasty withdrawal, outgoing U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker warned last week.

U.S. commanders are carefully watching Saturday's elections for members of provincial councils as an indicator of whether Iraqi factions are willing to resolve their differences politically instead of on the battlefield.

Violence is down sharply since last year after a U.S.-Iraqi offensive broke the power of Shiite militias and after many Sunni gunmen abandoned the insurgency. U.S. military death tolls have fallen to a fraction of levels seen at the height of the war.

A U.S. military statement said the two helicopters crashed about 2:15 a.m. in northern Iraq but did not specify where or say whether they had collided. The statement said the crash did not appear to be due to hostile fire.

It was the single deadliest incident for U.S. troops since Sept. 18, when seven American soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in the southern desert west of Basra.

Continued on Page B6

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In this Jan. 21, 2009 file photo, Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington before the Senate Finance Committee hearing on his nomination.

Associated Press

TREASURY CHIEF

Continued from Page B1

"It has become clear to me

that this is not merely a matter of complexity leading to mistakes, but of inexcusable

negligence."

Republican Sen. Mike Enzi agreed and noted that his is one of the few voices of dissent.

"Nominees for positions that do not oversee tax reporting and collection have been forced to withdraw their nomination for more minor offenses. They have been ridden out of town on a verbal rail," Enzi told the Senate. "The fact that we're in a global economic crisis is not a reason to overlook these errors."

"The Senate," he scolded, "is not supposed to be a group of 'yes' men."

It was not. Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa lined up against the nominee, asking how someone of Geithner's

"financial sophistication" could innocently not pay the taxes and then head up the agency that oversees the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. tax-collecting agency.

"How can Mr. Geithner speak with any credibility or authority?" Harkin said.

The Senate Finance Committee approved Geithner's confirmation in an 18-5 vote last week. However ambivalent, some Senate Republicans were supporting him.

Specter, for example, said he was not happy that Geithner did not pay all the \$42,702 in back taxes and interest until after he was nominated to become treasury secretary.

As such, Geithner will be directing the United States' economic recovery from the worst financial crisis in three generations, a task that could define the first two years of Obama's term. Specific duties include directing how \$350 billion of already existing Wall Street bailout money is to be spent, then making the case to Congress and the public if more is needed.

In addition, Congress is working on an \$825 billion economic recovery package that dedicates about two-thirds to new government spending and the rest to tax cuts. Geithner will be playing a big role in disbursing that money, too. □

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This photo provided by Accipiter Radar Technologies Inc. shows two of the company's avian radars at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on August 12, 2007.

Associated Press

Airports testing radar that could spot birds

By DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Some of the busiest U.S. airports will soon begin testing experimental radar systems designed to track flocks of birds and help pilots avoid the type of collision believed to have crippled a US Airways jet nearly two weeks ago.

Proponents say air traffic controllers could someday use the technology to delay takeoffs, reroute flights before they leave the ground, and perhaps even radio warnings to pilots to take evasive action.

The new technology uses a combination of inexpensive marine radar antennas, much like the kind used on fishing boats, and powerful computer software to monitor birds as they gather and soar as far as six miles away from an airport.

The dangers were illustrated Jan. 15 when a US Airways jet lost thrust in both engines after it apparently smacked into a flock of birds 90 seconds into a flight from LaGuardia Airport. The pilot managed to guide the plane to a belly landing on the Hudson River, saving all 155 people aboard.

Executives at DeTect Inc., a Panama City, Florida, maker of bird-detecting radar, said such systems might someday prevent accidents like that by letting controllers know when big groups of birds are getting close to a busy flight path.

Other experts and Federal Aviation Administration officials cautioned that the technology is unproven and still needs years of refinements. Still, it has shown enough

promise that the FAA is expanding testing significantly.

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, which has been evaluating bird radar since mid-2007, deployed its third detector on Friday. Chicago's O'Hare is slated to get one of the systems within six weeks. Dallas-Fort Worth, which took part in a previous round of testing, will see a more permanent installation within three months.

And last week, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey asked the FAA to consider installing the systems at all three of its major airports. Even before the US Airways accident, one of those busy airports, Kennedy, was on the list of sites slated to get a unit in the coming months, but the Port Authority asked that the installation be accelerated and expanded.

Tim J. Nohara, president of radar-maker Accipiter of Ontario, Canada, said he envisions the systems working much like weather advisories, providing controllers and airport managers with a general sense of the presence of migrating birds in the area, rather than give specific information about an impending collision.

"The technology we have right now is capable of doing it," he said. As for relaying information to pilots in time for them to take evasive action, "we're years off from that happening," said Steve Osmek, the wildlife program manager at Seattle-Tacoma International.

The technology is relatively cheap. A simple bird radar system can be had for \$500,000, about what it costs to replace a single engine knocked out by a bird. More expansive systems can cost \$2 million or more. □

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House Judiciary chairman subpoenas Karl Rove



U.S. political heavyweights participate in a panel discussion on the implications for Africa of Obama's inauguration, held in Abuja, Nigeria Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009. From right are former President George Bush advisor Karl Rove, Democratic strategist Donna Brazile, former White House chief of staff Andy Card, and outgoing Democratic Party chairman Howard Dean.

Associated Press

By LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House Judiciary Committee chairman subpoenaed former White House adviser Karl Rove on Monday to testify about the Bush administration's firing

of nine U.S. attorneys and its prosecution of a former Democratic governor. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., said the ongoing legal battle to get Rove and other former Bush administration aides to testify may have success with

a new president in the White House.

Former President George W. Bush upheld Rove and two other senior aides who asserted they did not have to testify before Congress about their actions in the White House.

The legal dispute between the executive and legislative branches of government is before a federal appeals court. Rove's lawyer, Robert Luskin, did not return phone messages seeking comment.

The subpoena commanded Rove to appear on Feb. 2 for a deposition on the U.S. attorney firings and the prosecution of former Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman, a Democrat.

Former Attorney General Michael Mukasey named a special prosecutor in September to investigate whether former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, other Bush administration officials or Republicans in Congress should face criminal

charges in the firings of the U.S. attorneys.

The inquiry followed the recommendation of internal Justice Department investigators who concluded that, despite administration denials, political considerations played a part in the firings of as many as four of the federal prosecutors. Conyers wants to know what role Rove played in the dismissals.

Siegelman has alleged his prosecution was pushed by Republicans, including Rove. The former governor was convicted on bribery and other charges and was sentenced to more than seven years in prison. He was released early, when a federal appeals court ruled his appeal raised "substantial questions."

Conyers said in a statement that times have changed.

He said Bush's position of "absolute immunity" was "rejected by U.S.

District Judge John Bates and President Obama has previously dismissed the claim as "completely misguided," Conyers said.

"I have said many times that I will carry this investigation forward to its conclusion, whether in Congress or in court, and today's action is an important step along the way. "Change has come to Washington, and I hope Karl Rove is ready for it. After two years of stonewalling, it's time for him to talk."

Last July, Bates rejected Bush's contention that senior White House advisers are immune from subpoenas, siding with Congress' power to investigate the executive branch.

Conyers also has sought testimony from former White House Counsel Harriet Miers, and ex-White House chief of staff Josh Bolten — although only Rove was named in the new subpoena. □

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Octuplets born 'screaming and kicking' in Calif.

BELLFLOWER, California (AP) - A woman gave birth to eight babies in Southern California on Monday, the world's second live-born set of octuplets.

The mother, who was not identified, gave birth to six girls and two boys weighing between 1.8 pounds (820 grams) and 3.4 pounds (1.54 kilograms), doctors at Kaiser Permanente hospital told KCAL9.

"It's a surprise," Dr. Karen Maples said. "Eight newborns are in stable condition and they're doing quite well."

Doctors estimated the woman's delivery lasted only five minutes.

"They were all screaming and kicking around very vigorously," Dr. Harold Henry told the TV station.

The first live-born octuplets were born in Houston in 1998, and one baby died about a week later. The surviving siblings - girls Ebuka, Gorom, Chidi, Chima and Echerem, and their brothers Ikem and Jioke - celebrated their 10th birthday in December.

Their parents, Nkem Chukwu and Iyke Louis Udobi, said they are astonished and grateful that their children have grown up to be healthy and active kids who are now in the fourth grade. □

JUST SAY



DRUGS

Aruba TODAY

Feds join arson investigations in Pennsylvania town

By MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press Writer

COATESVILLE, Pa. — Agents with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are joining the investigation into a suspicious fire that tore through a block of row houses in this Philadelphia suburb.

The agency announced Monday that it will assist local investigators who have responded to at least 30 arsons since the beginning of 2008, about a half of them in the past three weeks. Saturday's row house fire left several dozen people homeless.

Investigators have not yet labeled the latest fire an arson, but confirm that it fits the pattern of the previous ones, which typically started with items on front or back porches set ablaze. The fire appeared to have started on a rear porch in the middle of the block and spread across the rooftops, above the point where brick firewalls divide the homes.

Police Chief William Matthews has said the fires could be some form of gang initiation, although he offered no specifics. Police have interviewed several people about the unsolved fires, including the weekend blaze, but were not ready Monday to call any of them suspects, he said.

Chester County District Attorney Joseph Carroll, who is renovating a Coatesville row house he bought last year, notes that all of the fires have occurred within the city limits.

"Obviously, the person knows that police are paying extra attention, and yet they're staying within the city limits. That tells me something," he said. "Possibly it's somebody who is angry at the city ... angry at the police chief or the fire chief."

Three suspects have been charged to date in three of the fires, including the early December blaze that killed an 83-year-old woman. That suspect told authorities that voices told him to burn the house down, Carroll said.

Despite the arrests, suspicious fires continue to strike this

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Coatesville Police Chief William Matthews, left, Chester County District Attorney Joe Carroll, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter and Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Colonel Frank Pawlowski are seen during a news conference at City Hall in Coatesville, Pa., Monday, Jan. 26, 2009. At least 30 arsons have been reported since the beginning of 2008, about half of them in the last three weeks, prompting city officials to declare a state of emergency, but there was no clear information who was committing the crimes or why.

Associated Press

distressed steel town of about 11,000 people.

"I feel violated," said an exhausted Arundell Johnson, 50, as friends helped him move appliances out of the blackened row home he shared until Sunday with his wife and two children.

Sid Shelton, a 53-year-old machinist returned Monday to find the roof of his home open to the sky. His daughter wants to leave town, but their finances probably won't allow it, he said.

Like his neighbors, Shelton and his daughter are being put up at a nearby Holiday Inn for a few days. Like it or not, they'll probably move in with some of his other children, who also live in Coatesville, he said.

"We're all struggling," Shelton said in his debris-strewn bedroom, which had an Obama calendar on the wall.

"This is an entire city they're terrorizing," he said. □



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In this image released by the Iraqi Government, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki waves at a crowd gathered for a political rally south of Baghdad, Iraq. Monday, Jan. 26, 2009. Iraq's prime minister said Monday he believes the U.S. will withdraw its troops quicker than the three-year timeline set down in a U.S.-Iraq security agreement.

Associated Press

U.S. PULLOUT

Continued from Page B1

Before Monday, 11 U.S. service members had died this month in Iraq, only five in combat.

Iraqi officials said the helicopters went down about 20 miles west of Kirkuk, which is about 180 miles north of Baghdad. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to release the information.

Maj. Derrick Cheng, a spokesman for U.S. forces in northern Iraq, said all the dead were Americans but he gave no further details.

The deaths raised to at least 4,236 the number of U.S. service members who have

died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 70 U.S. helicopters have gone down since the war started in March 2003, according to military figures. Of those, 36 were confirmed to have been shot down.

Most recently, a helicopter made a hard landing on Nov. 15 after hitting wires in the northern city of Mosul, killing two American soldiers.

The single deadliest incident of the war for U.S. forces occurred in January 2005 when a U.S. Marine CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter crashed in bad weather in western Iraq, claiming 31 lives.

Investigators determined the

crash was not due to hostile fire.

Iraqi electoral officials, meanwhile, prepared for Saturday's provincial elections - the first nationwide vote in more than three years.

A spokesman for Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission, Qassim al-Aboudi, said the panel had punished more than 69 parties or coalitions for 180 campaign violations ranging from putting posters outside allocated locations and defaming rivals. He expressed concern that that was only a preview of conflicts and claims of fraud likely to emerge after the vote: "I do not expect that the losers in the elections will congratulate the winners." □

Yemen: Gunshots fired near US embassy

By AHMED AL-HAJ

Associated Press Writer

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) - Gunmen in a car exchanged fire Monday with police at a checkpoint near the U.S. Embassy in Yemen's capital, an Interior Ministry official said, hours after the embassy received threats of a possible attack.

No one was injured and the two gunmen fled the scene, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not permitted to have his name made public. He said three suspects in the area were detained. It was not clear who was behind the shooting, but al-Qaida has for years maintained a strong presence in the country, the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden.

In recent years, Yemen has cooperated with the U.S. in fighting terrorism, but its government has struggled to confront Islamic extremists in parts of the impoverished country in the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula.

Yemen has also been the site of numerous high-profile, al-Qaida-linked attacks, including the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in the Gulf of Aden, which killed 17 American sailors.

An attack on the U.S. Embassy in September involving gunmen and explosives-packed vehicles killed 17 people, including six militants. Al-Qaida later claimed responsibility for that attack.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman could not be reached for comment on Monday night's shooting.

Earlier, a Yemeni security official said the U.S. Embassy received a telephone call and an e-mail early Monday saying the U.S. and Russian embassies would be targeted by al-Qaida within

a few hours.

The U.S. Embassy confirmed receiving a threat about a potential attack on its compound, and security measures were heightened in the capital, San'a. Attempts to contact the Russian Embassy were not successful.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Ryan Gliha said earlier in the day that the embassy was urging American citizens to exercise caution in Yemen. He said the embassy received a threat "regarding a possible attack that could take place in the foreseeable future" but gave no further details.


Throughout the day, police were seen setting up security checkpoints and turning back cars and pedestrians on two key streets heading toward the U.S. Embassy in eastern San'a. There were also checkpoints around the Russian Embassy in downtown San'a, but traffic was not disrupted.

The U.S. Embassy also issued a warden message to Americans in Yemen advising them to be cautious and take "prudent security measures in all areas frequented by Westerners."

It emerged last week that a Saudi man released from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay is now the No. 2 of Yemen's al-Qaida branch.

An Internet statement purportedly from the terror network said Said Ali al-Shihri returned to his home in Saudi Arabia after his release from Guantanamo about a year ago and from there went to Yemen.

The announcement came as U.S. President Barack Obama ordered the detention facility closed within a year. Nearly 100 Yemeni detainees remain at Guantanamo, making up the biggest group of prisoners there. □



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R	REVOLUTIONARY ROAD	daily: 4:55 matinee: 11:55	7:25 late show: 12:20	NEW
R	NOTORIOUS	daily: 4:15 matinee: 1:40	6:50 late show: 11:50	
PG-13	YES MAN	daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:45	7:30 late show: 11:55	
PG	MARLY & ME	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:55	7:00 late show: 12:05	

AT PASEO HERENCIA				
R	REVOLUTIONARY ROAD	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:00	7:25 late show: 12:15	NEW
PG	INKHEART	daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:50	7:35 late show: 12:00	NEW
PG-13	YES MEN	daily: 5:40 matinee: 1:05	7:50 late show: 12:15	
R	THE PUNISHER: WAR ZONE	daily: 5:30 matinee: 1:00	8:00 late show: 12:25	
R	VALKYRIE	daily: 4:55 matinee: 11:50	7:20 late show: 12:10	
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China's Year of the Ox not so bullish

By TINI TRAN

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China welcomed the arrival Monday of the Year of the Ox with fireworks-filled celebrations, but the country's economic worries have already cast the new year in a more sober light.

Millions of Chinese gave a boisterous farewell to a tumultuous 2008 marked by a massive earthquake, the Olympics and a global economic crisis.

But in a somber Lunar New Year greeting, China's finance minister warned that balancing the budget this year would be increasingly difficult, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Xie Xuren described external and internal factors affecting China's development as "very severe" and said more difficulties had to be overcome to achieve steady and relatively fast economic growth, according to a statement posted on the ministry's Web site.

He urged officials to avoid unnecessary spending this year, with local governments ordered to curtail car purchases, catering, meetings and overseas travel.

The Chinese New Year, which marks the start of the Spring

Festival, is the country's most important holiday. It is generally celebrated with lavish spending on elaborate meals and exchanges of "hong bao," or red envelopes stuffed with money.

But at the capital's legendary Quanjude Peking Duck Restaurant, marketing manager Yang Jing said the financial downturn is already having an effect on traditional feasting. "People are feeling it's harder to make money in the economic crisis, so now the customers are more picky about details like food quality and prices. It's not that easy to take even one penny out of their pockets," Yang said.

The country's economic outlook for 2009 has been dampened by the deepening global financial crisis, with China's 2008 annual growth down to a seven-year low of 9 percent. Thousands of factories have closed in China's export-driven southeast, and estimates of job losses exceed 2 million.

Communist leaders have worried publicly about rising tensions and possible unrest as laid-off workers stream back to their hometowns. They have promised to create new jobs and are pressing employers to avoid more layoffs.

The State Council, China's

Cabinet, announced measures Sunday to help college graduates find jobs, pledging to train 1 million unemployed graduates over the next three years to boost their qualifications.

Despite the grim forecast for the new year, merchants in the capital said fireworks sales were up 28 percent from last year, with some 230,000 fireworks packages sold by Sunday, Xinhua reported.

Meanwhile, a quirky challenge to state television's flashy Lunar New Year gala was dropped by Web sites and ended up only being broadcast by a satellite station with limited coverage in China, the show's organizer said.

Shi Mengqi had designed his show — which was to feature human beatbox rappers and bicycle stunts — as a grass-roots, laid-back alternative to its propaganda-laden competition.

Shi, a wedding planner who produces his own online TV shows, said he was in talks with eight or nine Chinese Web sites to broadcast his New Year show on Sunday night, but all of them backed out, claiming they were warned not to carry the program. He declined to identify the Web sites and said he didn't know who warned them. □



Chinese visits a giant lantern surrounded with Ox statues on display during the eve of the Lunar Chinese New Year in Guangzhou of south China's Guangdong province on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. China greeted the arrival Monday of the Year of the Ox.

Associated Press



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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.



Menu Items:

Burgers, Pizzas, Salads
Sandwiches, Wraps
Wings, Calamari

Happy Hour:

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@ Sunset

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Opening hours:

8:00 am to 12:00 am

Web site:

www.bugaloe.com

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PALM BEACH - The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churras-

caria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of

umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portobella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm,

sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar.

Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed

potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal ☐

Restaurant opens daily

Mon-Sat 6 pm to 11 pm
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For information or reservations:

586-4686

Located in front of Playa Linda, next to Hyatt



At Papillon Restaurant in The Village

Henri Charrière would have had the time of his life



PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping autobiography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink

at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana.

Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust

and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba; this is luxury living for anyone!

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 7320832 ☐



Papillon RESTAURANT

Papillon Restaurant forms part of the Taste of Belgium family, which consists of the Chocolaterie in the Renaissance Mall downtown, the Bistro at the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn Resort and the Taste of Belgium Catering Service, which offers perfect, custom-made solutions for any party, happening, wedding or reception that you may be planning.

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Catch of the day
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Fettuccini Alfredo
Chicken Breast

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables

The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21,75
Service charge not included.
For reservations call 586-3659

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Andy Murray ousted in 4th round of Australian Open

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Andy Murray wasn't the only one feeling pain Monday at the Australian Open.

While Murray's anguish was mostly psychological - the fourth-seeded Scot was ousted by Spain's Fernando Verdasco 2-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 - three other players had to quit mid-match with injuries or illness, paving the way for Serena Williams, Gilles Simon and Svetlana Kuznetsova to reach the quarterfinals.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal, meanwhile, left 2007 runner-up Fernando Gonzalez feeling out of sorts with another dominating performance in a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win. He has yet to drop a set and next faces the sixth-seeded Simon, who advanced when fellow Frenchman Gael Monfils retired with a wrist injury.

"I am playing well, but you never know if it's going to be enough," said Nadal, who had 33 winners and just 11 unforced errors.

Verdasco will meet fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France,

who beat No. 9 James Blake 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (3), leaving No. 7 Andy Roddick as the only American in the men's draw. Tsonga was runner-up last year to Novak Djokovic, while Blake has failed to get past the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam in 28 appearances.

Tsonga was unhappy with a delay caused by Australia Day fireworks. Blake broke him right after they resumed play, but Tsonga rallied and raced through the tiebreaker.

He said he feels he's improved from last year.

"It's different because I have more experience now," Tsonga said. "I hope I will make the results better."

Williams was the biggest beneficiary of the wave of retirements. She was down a set to 13th-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus and so frustrated with her first serve that she got a warning for a verbal obscenity for cursing it. The 19-year-old Azarenka, who woke up sick, had to quit in the second set.

Williams, seeking a 10th Grand Slam singles title, next plays 2004 U.S. Open



Spain's Fernando Verdasco reacts after winning over Britain's Andy Murray during their Men's singles match at the Australia Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 26, 2009.

Associated Press

champion Kuznetsova, who advanced when Zheng Jie of China retired at 4-1 in the first set. They are the only major winners still in the women's

draw.

No. 22 Zheng, hoping for victory on Chinese New Year, injured her left wrist in a fall. She had treatment

immediately but retired two games later and will go for X-rays Tuesday.

Murray said he, too, hasn't been feeling well the last few days, though he refused to use it as an excuse.

"I don't feel that was the reason why I lost," Murray said. "I definitely did have my chances, and he played too well. I'm disappointed that I lost. But I'll try and learn from it. It's not a disaster. I'm still playing well. I lost to a good player in a very close match. I'll have more chances to win Grand Slams."

Murray saved two match points after falling behind 40-0 in the last game but wasn't able to fend off a third, netting a backhand.

Murray, who lost in the U.S. Open final last year to Roger Federer, was trying to become the first British man since 1936 to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Verdasco saved two break points in the pivotal sixth game of the fifth set, firing aces when he needed them. He broke Murray in the next game. □



By IRA PODELL

AP Hockey Writer

MONTREAL - The home of hockey produced an All-Star shootout from start to finish. All that was missing was Rocket Richard.

In the city where the NHL was

born 92 years earlier, with the All-Star game as the backdrop, Alex Kovalev gave Montreal and Canadiens fans something new to cheer about in the 100th season of the league's most storied franchise.

Kovalev, the Canadiens'

Kovalev scores 2 goals, another in SO to lift East

biggest current star, scored two breakaway goals and then scored in the shootout to help give the Eastern Conference All-Stars a wild 12-11 victory over the West on Sunday night.

"You can't ask for a better package than this," said Kovalev, the East captain who had three points and skated off with MVP honors. "Get voted in the All-Star game by the fans, starting lineup, being the captain, get MVP. This is something to remember the rest of your life."

It was the second-highest scoring game in All-Star

history and the fifth decided after regulation.

"The last 5 minutes and going into the overtime you could tell neither team wanted to lose. It certainly picked up at the end there," said West defenseman Dan Boyle, one of 28 players with a point. "I've seen some of the games in the past, and I didn't think this one was too bad." On a night filled with pageantry, there were the traditional breakaways and the usual absence of defense. What made this All-Star game different was the presence and reverence for the players of long ago.

Several times, faceoffs were delayed as Hall of Fame Canadiens such as Henri Richard — the brother of the late Maurice "Rocket" Richard — Dickie Moore and Yvan Cournoyer stepped out of the tunnel and waved to the crowd as part of the season-long celebration of the Canadiens' special anniversary.

While fans cheered, players showed their appreciation with on-ice stick tapping. Even linesman Pierre Racicot, a native of the Montreal area, tucked the puck away so he could clap for the Canadiens heroes, too. □



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Las Campeonas 5

Lot: 811 m2 / 8,110 sq.ft. Home: 173 m2 / 1,861 sq.ft. 2/2

Lovely one story casita with two bedrooms and two bathrooms featuring a spacious living and dining area and an open modern kitchen with all appliances. The master bedroom has a walk in closet and an extended den opening to a fully landscaped backyard with wrap around pergola. Other features include an inner enclosed patio, stacked washer and dryer and a one car garage. **Priced at US\$640,000**



Las Campeonas 10

Lot: 984 m2 / 10,591 sq.ft. Home: 128 m2 / 1,377 sq.ft. 2/2

Two bedroom & 2 bathroom cottage house, comfortably furnished. Landscaped garden and inner patio. The home has central air-conditioning. All appliances and furniture included in the sale.

Priced at US\$500,000

Las Campeonas 25

Lot: 695m2 / 7,478 sq.ft. Home: 168m2 / 1,808 sq.ft. 3/3

Most charming one story patio home with tropical garden, fully landscaped, salt-system pool and Jacuzzi with wraparound deck. The master bedroom suite and the guest bedroom suite enjoy spectacular private views of the garden.

The upgraded kitchen with granite counter top, stainless steel appliances and mahogany finished cabinets, enjoys pool and golf course view, complementing the spacious living & dining areas. Ample custom closets and storage, central air-conditioning and ceiling fans. Furniture and furnishings negotiated separately.

Priced at US\$695,000



Miramar • Caya Bista Lama # 26

Lot: 599 m2 / 6,448 sq.ft. Home: 161 m2 / 1,733 sq.ft. 2 / 2 ½

Cozy one story casita, 2 master suit bedrooms, 2 ½ bathrooms, with living/dining/kitchen area wide open. Includes a one-car garage and separate laundry room. Nicely landscaped, and ready for occupancy.

Priced at US\$699,000

Miramar • Caya di Biento # 3

Lot: 711m2 / 7,653 sq.ft. Home: 245.45 m2 / 2,642 sq.ft. 3/4

New construction, just-finished home. Two story home, three bedrooms, spectacular terraces, four baths, panoramic views from everywhere, includes all appliances, Italian furnishings, decorations, drip system, pool with infinity edge.

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CONDOS



Las Rocas • Caya Baranca 14D

149 m2 / 1,495 sq.ft 3/2

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Las Rocas • Caya Baranca 12B

130 m2 / 1,400 sq.ft. 3/2 ½

Comfortable two bedroom, 2 ½ bathroom townhouse, with kitchen, living room, dining area, walk in closet and beautiful patio overlooking hole #10 downstairs. Two spacious bedrooms, two bathrooms, walk in closets, a terrace, and stacked washer & dryer upstairs. **Priced at US\$330,000**



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week#1-17 Occidental Grand-Exec. Studio, OceanFront - US\$9,000	For Rent, Renaissance - 1Bdr week 4, Oceanview - US\$1,500	week# 1 - DiviPhoenix - Studio R#204, Oceanfront - US\$9,000
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-2Bdr Supreme, OceanFront US\$30,000	Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000	week#2 biannual-DiviPhoenix Studio, R#404, Oceanfront - US\$6,000
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-1Bdr Royal Club Grand Le. - US\$32,000	Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613, Pool Ocean - US\$18,000	week# 3 - DiviVillage - studio R#5508, Golf poolv - US\$8,000
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-1Bdr Delux, OceanView - US\$14,000	Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500	week#3-4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416, Oceanfront - US\$25,000pw
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-JR. Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000	Floating W#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview - US\$20,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901 - Oceanview - US\$11,000
week# 1-17 Occidental Grand-JR. Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView - US\$18,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001, Oceanv - US\$10,000
week# 1-17 Occidental Grand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanFront - US\$30,000	week#5-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath. R#206, Oceanfront US\$20,000
week#2,3,4, -LaCabana-1Bdr R#401d, OceanFr. - US\$15,000pw	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, OceanView - US\$26,000	week#6-7-DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#302, Oceanfro. - US\$25,000pw
week# 5 & 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#401d-OceanFront - US\$18,000	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, OceanFront - US\$60,000	week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront - US\$10,000
week# 6 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#601-Oceanview - US\$10,000	week# 1 - Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2031, Ocean/pool - US\$25,000	week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr R#5537g-Poolview - US\$7,000
week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, Pool Ocean - US\$15,000	week#1 Costa Linda - 2Bdr R#1014, OceanView - US\$24,000	weeks#50,51,52,-DiviLinks-1Bdr R#4226,-Ocean/p- US\$16,000pw
week# 3 & 4-Renaissance.-1Bdr Groundfl, Oceanv - US\$30,000pw	Platinum, Marriott Ocean Club 2Bdr, OceanFront - US\$35,000	week#1-2,-3 -DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226, Ocean/P - US\$16,000pw
Platinum W#1-17, Marriott Surf - 3bdr, OceanView - US\$50,000	week# 4, Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2012, Oceanview - US\$24,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108, Poolv - US\$14,000
For Rent: DiviPhoenix week#4&5 2009 R#108, - US\$1,500 perwk	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010, Oceanview - US\$24,000	week# 4-DiviLinks - 1 Bdr. R#2105, Poolview - US\$16,000
week# 1&2, Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4585, Poolv - US\$8,000 pw	week# 5 - Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#3004, Ocean/Pool - US\$26,000	week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214, PoolV - US\$14,000
week# 2, Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R#4584, Poolview - US\$8,000	week# 4&5, Costa Linda - 2Br 4th floor, OceanP - US\$60,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302, OceanFront - US\$23,000
week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr. R#1586, poolview - US\$8,000pw	week# 4 & 5 DiviPhoenix - studio R#108, OceanFR - US\$12,000pw	week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105, OceanPo, US\$11,500
week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr. R#3586, poolv - US\$7,000pw	week# 2, Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584, PoolView - US\$8,475	week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303, Pool Ocean - US\$8,000
week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510, poolview - US\$14,000	week# 1, Paradise B.V - 1 Bdr. R#227, Oceanfront - US\$15,000	week# 1-RIU Palace - 2Bdr R#269, Oceanfront - US\$27,000
For Rent: Paradise B - week 4&5 R#108, poolv - US\$1,500pw	week# 2, Paradise BV - 2Bdr. R#207, Ocean/Pool - US\$15,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c, Ocep - US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, OceanSide - US\$33,000	week# 3&4, Paradise B.V - 1Bdr. R#101, Ocean/p - US\$12,000pw	week# 5 - La Cabana - 1Br R#336a, Ocean/pool - US\$11,000
Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, OceanView US\$30,000	week# 4, Paradise B.V - 2Bdr. R#129, Oceanfront - US\$24,000	week#11, Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49, PoolV US\$18,000pw
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339, OceanFr - US\$8,000	2xPlatinum(1-17)Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview - US\$22,000	For rent: week 8, Renaissance- R#2536, 1Br-OceanV - US\$1,500
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c, OceanVi - US\$9,000	week# 1, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr. R#206, OceanFront - US\$20,000	week#10. DutchVillage-1Bdr R#121, Poolview - US\$8,000

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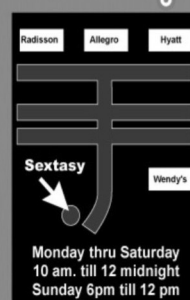


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OEA pide diálogo en Bolivia tras victoria del “Sí” en referendo

LA PAZ (Reuters) - La Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) llamó el lunes al Gobierno y a la oposición de Bolivia al diálogo para acabar con las divergencias, un día después de que el presidente Evo Morales ganara un referendo que le permite aplicar una nueva Constitución socialista.

Tras obtener alrededor del 60 por ciento de los votos, Morales prometió acelerar la aplicación de la carta magna sin importar que líderes opositores exigieran un pacto, pues al menos cuatro de los nueve departamentos que conforman el país andino votaron mayoritariamente en contra de la nueva Constitución.

“El máximo representante de la OEA (José Miguel Insulza) expresó su deseo de que sea el diálogo el único mecanismo utilizado por los bolivianos para lograr un acercamiento de las distintas posiciones”, dijo el jefe de la misión de observación electoral de la OEA, Raúl Lago, en conferencia de prensa.

El Gobierno y la oposición derechista han estado enfrentados principalmente por las exigencias de autonomía de algunos prefectos (gobernadores) que adversan a Morales. En ocasiones, las manifestaciones en favor o en contra de alguna idea se han tornado violentas.

que en su momento fueron comunicadas a la autoridad, la OEA saludó “el esfuerzo desplegado por el pueblo y el Gobierno de Bolivia para expresar su voluntad en las urnas, sin violencia y con respeto a la diversidad de opinión”.

La nueva carta magna, instrumento central de la “refundación” del empobrecido país prometida por Morales, entrará en vigencia en febrero, cuando se espera que la CNE publique el resultado oficial final del referendo. □

Chávez dice OPEP dispuesta a más recortes producción

CARACAS (Reuters) - El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, dijo el lunes que la Organización de Países Exportadores de Petróleo (OPEP) está dispuesta a realizar recortes adicionales de su bombeo de crudo si es necesario para defender los precios.

si los precios continúan su declive.

Durante la jornada, el crudo ligero estadounidense cayó un 1,6 por ciento ante perspectivas de que repunten los inventarios energéticos en Estados Unidos y por la desaceleración de la economía mundial.

Sin embargo, el viernes los precios subieron ante señales de que las naciones de la OPEP estaban cumpliendo con los recortes acordados.

“El petróleo ha venido repuntando desde hace una semana y hoy amaneció con un incremento (la cesta venezolana) de 2,9 dólares el barril, para llegar a 39,75 (dólares)”, agregó Chávez, quien se encuentra en campaña para eliminar los límites a su reelección en un referendo el 15 de febrero.

La economía venezolana, muy dependiente del crudo, podría verse seriamente afectada por la caída de los precios petroleros, al igual que la imagen del mandatario, quien tras 10 años en el poder goza de alta popularidad por sus programas sociales financiados con la renta petrolera. □

Pese a estas irregularidades,

La organización ha retirado del mercado 4,2 millones de barriles por día desde septiembre para impulsar la cotización del crudo, que ha perdido más de 100 dólares por barril (dpb) desde los máximos de mediados del 2008 por la crisis económica mundial.

“Yo lo dije hace unas semanas: si tuviéramos que recortar cuatro millones más, los recortamos, pero no vamos a permitir que los precios lleguen otra vez a como estaban aquí hace diez años, a seis dólares el barril, cuando llegó la revolución”, dijo Chávez en un programa radial, según un comunicado.

La OPEP, responsable de un tercio de la producción mundial de crudo, se reunirá de nuevo el 15 de marzo en Viena, aunque algunos miembros han sugerido que podrían convocar un encuentro de emergencia antes de esa fecha



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